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3 EFFICIENT SNOWMAKING WITH POLYMER DRAG REDUCTION

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5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

6 A method for reducing the drag on an aqueous solution in a
7 pipe or hose system such as a snow making system includes the
8 introduction of drag reducing polymers into the aqueous solution
9 prior to circulating the solution in a pipe or hose. In a
10 preferred embodiment, the drag reducing polymers are a mixture
11 of polyethylene oxide in a carrier solution. The introduction
12 of the polyethylene oxide in a carrier solution reduces the
13 overall frictional drag and therefore increases the snow making
14 efficiency by reducing the power needed to pump the water. As a
15 result, it is easier for greater quantities of snow to be made
16 using existing equipment due to the increased flow rate as a
17 result of the lower drag friction. In a preferred embodiment,
18 the polyethylene oxide is approximately 20-30% by weight and is
19 introduced into the water pipe so resulting concentrations are
20 approximately 30-100 weight parts per million (WPPM).